PS 8-4 15-25R

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# OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 1/24/83
TS AUTH. [illegible] PLAS ON(S)
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FOIA EXEMPTIONS
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Origin

Info

ACTION: Amembassy TEL AVIV XD-EXDIS DATE 24 66 23 04Z

STATE:

LIMDIS

SUBJECT: U.S.S. Liberty Claims

REFERENCE: State 219537 & 223893; Tel Aviv 4949

1. Unless objection perceived Embassy requested transmit following note:

Embassy refers to MFA note dated August 5, in reply to Embassy's Note No. 74, dated July 1. Ministry's note states that MFA considers that, in light of circumstances of attack on U.S.S. Liberty which have come to light in various inquiries carried out in Israel and US, Israel is not liable for damages claimed in Embassy's note.

Damages referred to in the Embassy's note occurred as direct result of unprovoked attack on U.S.S. Liberty by Israeli naval and air units on June 8, 1967. GOI formally assured USG that it recognized its responsibility for its tragic error in attacking U.S.S. Liberty, and that it was prepared to make amends for damage, including material damage, suffered in attack.

| Drafted by: NEA/IAI:JDLeonard | 4967 | Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: NEA - Mr. Battle |
|---|---|---|
| L:L/C:ELKerley:ams 8/26/68 | 5896 | |

Clearances:

L - Mr. Salans
NEA/IAI - Mr. Bantz
NEA - Mr. Davies
D.O.D. - Mr. Schwartz
NAVY OP-61 - Rear Admiral O'Grady
S/S - Mr. Walsh

CONFIDENTIAL

Classification

FORM DS-322 8-65

CLASSIFIED BY DS/R

These assurances were stated in notes of Israeli Ambassador to US dated June 10 and June 12, 1967, and were quoted in Embassy's Note No. 26 to MFA, dated December 29, 1967, by which Embassy informed MFA of categories of claims, including a claim for damage to vessel, which would be presented.

Position stated in MFA note of August 5 is in contravention of express assurances of GOI regarding its responsibility for material and other damage caused by attack. USG not aware of alleged circumstances that have come to light in inquiries carried out since attack which would relieve Israel from its admitted responsibility.

In light of established facts regarding circumstances under which Liberty was attacked and of express assurances previously given by GOI, USG must reject as totally unacceptable position stated in MFA note of August 5 and reiterates expectation that the GOI will promptly compensate the USG for full amount claimed.

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